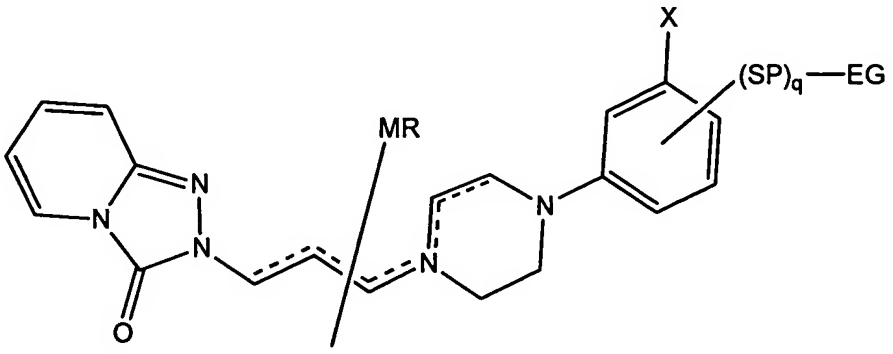
Amendments to the Claims

1. – 128. (canceled)

129. A method of treating a sleep disorder, comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of a trazodone compound, such that the sleep disorder is treated, wherein said trazodone compound is represented by the formula:



wherein MR is a metabolite reducing moiety that reduces the formation of wake-promoting metabolites, MR is attached to a carbon along the dotted line shown, EG is an ester group that modifies the half-life of the trazodone compound, SP is a spacer molecule, q is 0 or 1, X is H or Cl.

130. The method of claim 129, wherein said spacer molecule is $(CH_2)_m$, where m is an integer selected from 1 to 20.

131. The method of claim 129, wherein said trazodone compound containing MR is more effective as a therapeutic agent for treating a sleep disorder than the corresponding compound without the MR.

132. The method of claim 129, wherein said trazodone compound containing said EG is more effective as a therapeutic agent for treating a sleep disorder than the corresponding compound without the EG.

133. The method of claim 129, wherein said trazodone compound containing EG is more effective as a therapeutic agent for treating a sleep disorder than the corresponding acid of said EG.

134. The method of claim 129, wherein said trazodone compound containing the corresponding acid of EG is not a therapeutically effective agent for treating a sleep disorder.

135. The method of claim 129, wherein said wake promoting metabolite is m-CPP.

136. The method of claim 129, wherein the trazodone compound induces a discrete sleep or hypnotic state by penetration into the Central Nervous System (CNS).

137. The method of claim 129, wherein the sleep disorder is selected from the group consisting of insomnia, hypersomnia, narcolepsy, sleep apnea syndromes, parasomnia, restless leg syndrome, and circadian rhythm abnormality.

138. The method of claim 137, wherein the sleep disorder is insomnia.

139. The method of claim 137, wherein the sleep disorder is hypersomnia.

140. The method of claim 137, wherein the sleep disorder is narcolepsy.

141. The method of claim 137, wherein the sleep disorder is sleep apnea syndrome.

142. The method of claim 137, wherein the sleep disorder is parasomnia.

143. The method of claim 137, wherein the sleep disorder is restless leg syndrome.

144. The method of claim 137, wherein the sleep disorder is circadian rhythm abnormality.

145. The method of claim 144, wherein the circadian rhythm abnormality is selected from the group consisting of jet lag, shift-work disorders, and delayed or advanced sleep phase syndrome.

146. The method of claim 129, wherein the trazodone compound is administered orally.

147. The method of claim 129, further comprising administering the trazodone compound in a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

148. The method of claim 129, wherein MR is one or more moieties that are attached at one or more positions along the dotted line.

149. The method of claim 148, wherein MR is a single moiety that is attached at multiple positions.

150. The method of claim 148, wherein MR is more than one moiety attached at multiple positions.

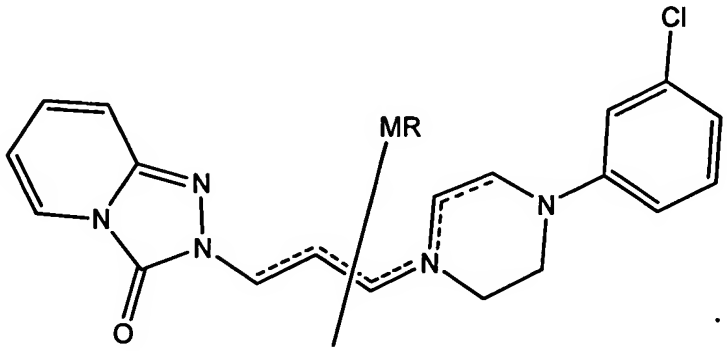
151. The method of claim 129, wherein MR is an alkyl group.

152. The method of claim 129, wherein MR is selected from the MRs represented in the compounds listed in Table 2.

153. The method of claim 152, wherein MR is selected from a methyl, a geminal dimethyl, a cyclopropyl, a COOH, a COO-ethyl, a COO- isopropyl, a COO- cyclopentyl, a COO-pentyl, a cycloheptyl, and a benzyl group.

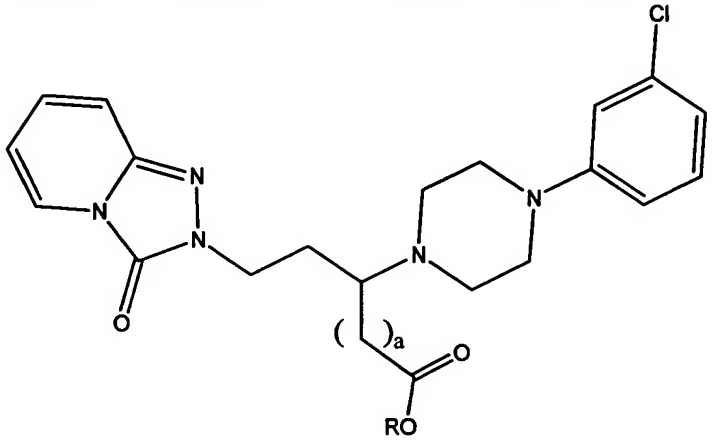
154. The method of claim 149, wherein MR is cyclopropyl.

155. A method of treating a sleep disorder, comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of a trazodone compound, such that the sleep disorder is treated, wherein said trazodone compound is represented by the formula:



wherein MR is selected from a geminal dimethyl, a cyclopropyl, a COOH, a COO-ethyl, a COO-isopropyl, a COO- cyclopentyl, a COO-pentyl, a cycloheptyl, and a benzyl group.

156. A method of treating a sleep disorder, comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of a trazodone compound, such that the sleep disorder is treated, wherein said trazodone compound is selected from the group consisting of:



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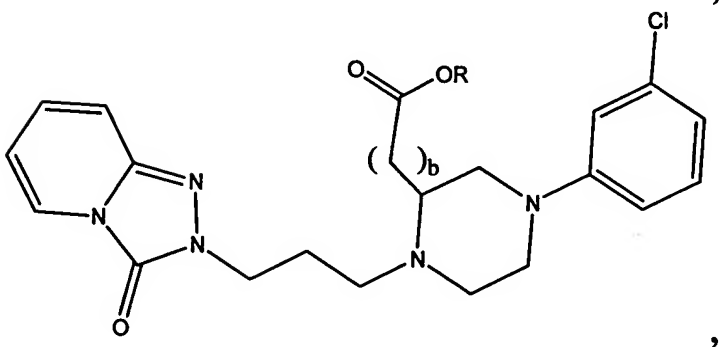

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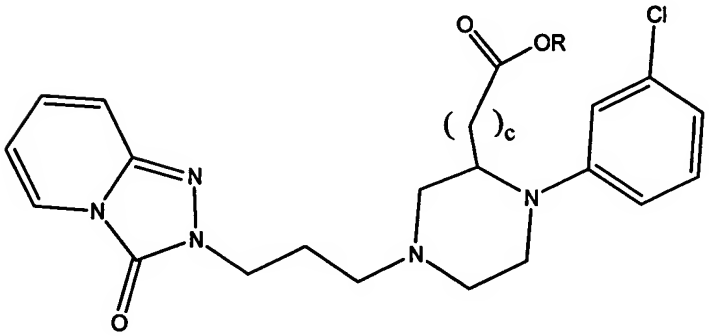
and



wherein a, b, and c are, independently, selected from 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, and R is any group which imparts properties to the trazodone compound to promote reduction of formation of wake-promoting metabolites, and modification to the half-life of the compound.

157. The method of claim 156, wherein a is 0 or 1.

158. The method of claim 156, wherein b is 0 or 1.

159. The method of claim 156, wherein c is 0 or 1.

160. The method of claim 156, wherein R is selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbons and perfluorocarbons.

161. The method of claim 160, wherein the hydrocarbons are selected from the group consisting of linear; branched; cyclic; aromatic; and a combination of saturated or unsaturated aliphatic and aromatic; wherein further the hydrocarbons are optionally substituted with O, N, S, or halogen and may additionally include one or more centers of chirality.

162. The method of claim 160, wherein the hydrocarbons contain from 1 to 20 carbons.

163. The method of claim 156, wherein R is selected from the group consisting of a methyl, an ethyl, an n-propyl, an isopropyl, a t-butyl, an isobutyl, a cyclopentyl, a cyclohexyl, a cycloheptyl, and a benzyl group.

164. The method of claim 163, wherein R is a cyclohexyl group.

165. The method of claim 163, wherein R is a cyclopentyl group.

166. The method of claim 163, wherein R is a cycloheptyl group.

167. The method of claim 163, wherein R is an isobutyl group.

168. The method of claim 163, wherein R is an ethyl group.

169. The method of claim 163, wherein R is a methyl group.

170. The method of claim 163, wherein R is an n-propyl group.

171. The method of claim 163, wherein R is an isopropyl group.

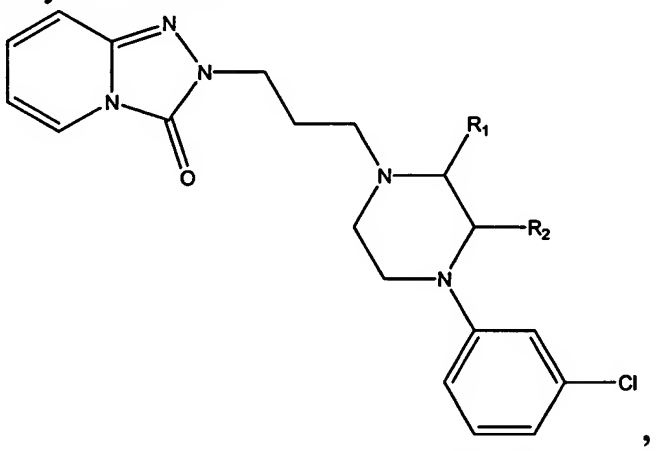
172. The method of claim 163, wherein R is a t-butyl group.

173. The method of claim 163, wherein R is a benzyl group.

174. The method of claim 163, wherein R is a bulky alcohol.

175. The method of claim 174, wherein the bulky alcohol is selected from the alcohols listed in Table 1.

176. A method of treating a sleep disorder, comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of a trazodone compound, such that the sleep disorder is treated, wherein said trazodone compound is represented by the formula:



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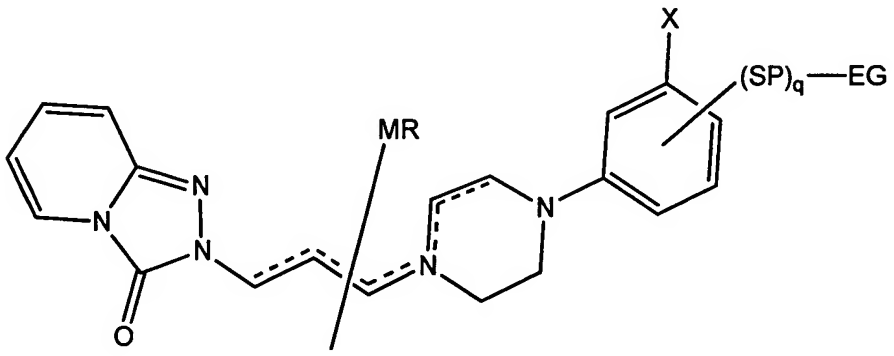
wherein R_1 and R_2 are, independently, selected from H, COO-isopropyl, and COO-cyclopentyl, provided that at at least one of R_1 and R_2 is not H.

177. The method of claim 176, wherein one of R_1 and R_2 is H.

178. A compound of the formula:



wherein MR is a metabolite reducing moiety that reduces the formation of wake-promoting metabolites, MR is attached to a carbon along the dotted line shown, EG is an ester group that

modifies the half-life of the trazodone compound, SP is a spacer molecule, q is 0 or 1, X is H or Cl.

179. The compound of claim 178, wherein said wake promoting metabolite is m-CPP.

180. The compound of claim 178, wherein said spacer molecule is $(CH_2)_m$, where m is an integer selected from 1 to 20.

181. The compound of claim 178, wherein MR is one or more moieties attached at one or more positions along the dotted line.

182. The compound of claim 181 wherein MR is a single moiety that is attached at multiple positions.

183. The compound of claim 181, wherein MR is more than one moiety attached at multiple positions.

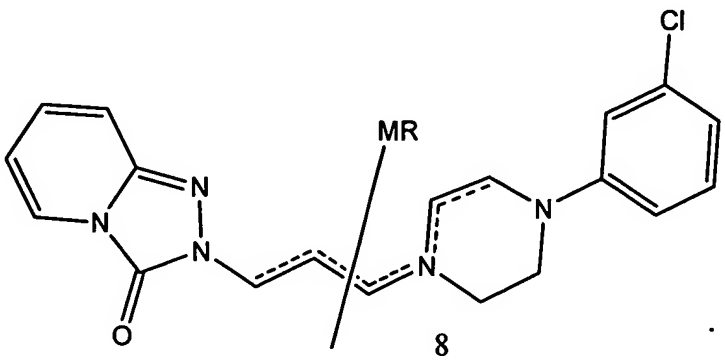
184. The compound of claim 178, wherein MR is an alkyl group.

185. The compound of claim 178, wherein MR is selected from the MRs represented in the compounds listed in Table 2.

186. The compound of claim 185, wherein MR is selected from methyl, geminal dimethyl, cyclopropyl, COOH, COO-ethyl, COO- isopropyl, COO- cyclopentyl, COO-pentyl a cycloheptyl, and benzyl.

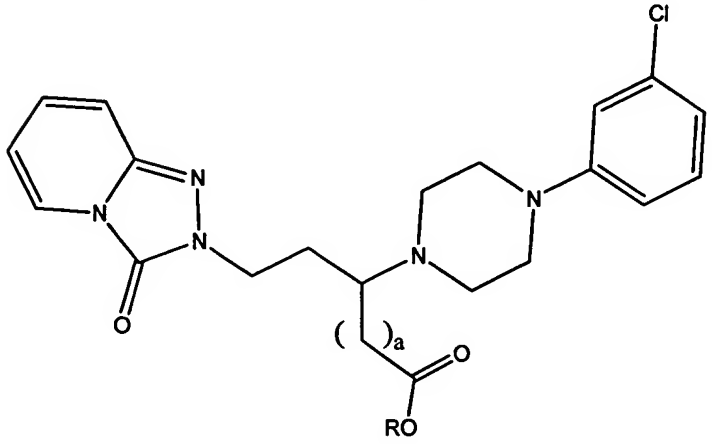
187. The compound of claim 181, wherein MR is cyclopropyl.

188. A compound represented by the formula:



wherein MR is selected from a geminal dimethyl, a cyclopropyl, a COOH, a COO-ethyl, a COO-isopropyl, a COO- cyclopentyl, a COO-pentyl, a cycloheptyl, and a benzyl group.

189. A compound selected from:



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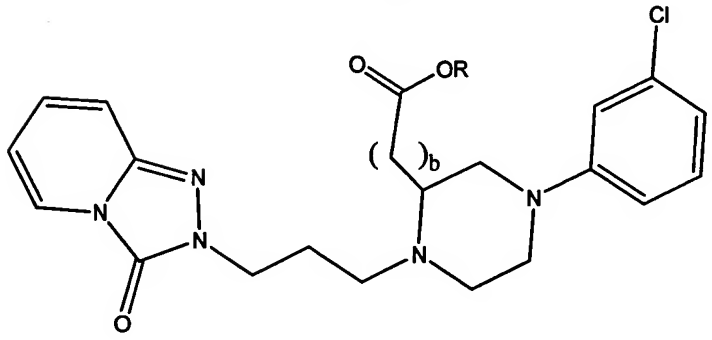

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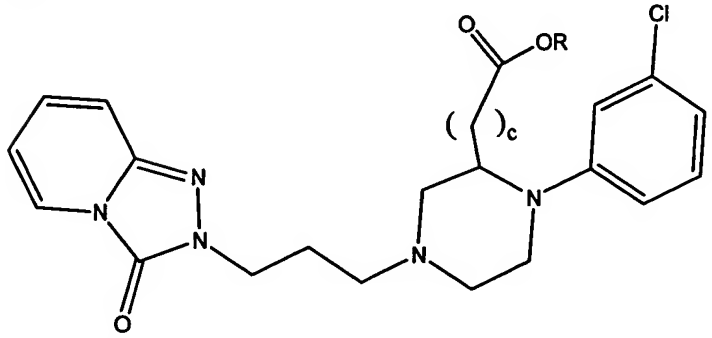
and



wherein a, b, and c, are, independently selected from 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, and R is any group which imparts properties to the trazodone compound to promote reduction of formation of wake-promoting metabolites, and modification to the half-life of the compound.

190. The compound of claim 189, wherein a is 0 or 1.

191. The compound of claim 189, wherein b is 0 or 1.

192. The compound of claim 189, wherein c is 0 or 1.

193. The compound of claim 189, wherein R is selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbons and perfluorocarbons.

194. The compound of claim 193, wherein the hydrocarbons are selected from the group consisting of linear; branched; cyclic; aromatic; and a combination of saturated or unsaturated aliphatic and aromatic; wherein further the hydrocarbons are optionally substituted with O, N, S, or halogen and may additionally include one or more centers of chirality.

195. The compound of claim 193, wherein the hydrocarbons contain from 1 to 20 carbons.

196. The compound of claim 189, wherein R is selected from the group consisting of a methyl, an ethyl, an n-propyl, an isopropyl, an n-butyl, a t-butyl, a cyclopentyl, a cyclohexyl, a cycloheptyl, and a benzyl group.

197. The compound of claim 196 wherein R is a cyclohexyl group.

198. The compound of claim 196, wherein R is a cyclopentyl group.

199. The compound of claim 196, wherein R is a cycloheptyl group.

200. The compound of claim 196, wherein R is an isobutyl group.

201. The compound of claim 196, wherein R is an ethyl group.

202. The compound of claim 196, wherein R is a methyl group.

203. The compound of claim 196, wherein R is an n-propyl group.

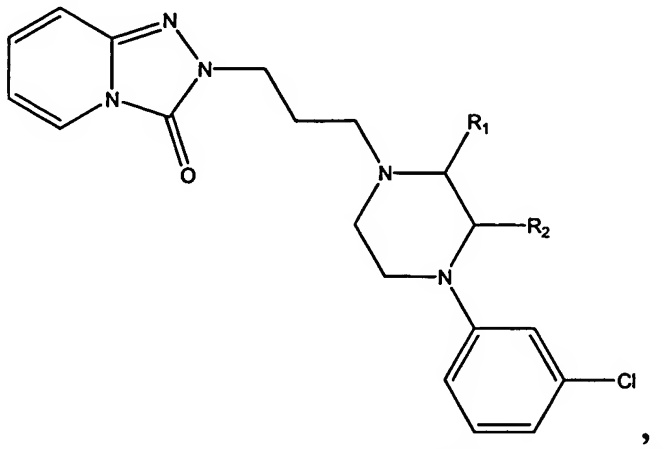
204. The compound of claim 196, wherein R is an isopropyl group.

205. The compound of claim 196, wherein R is a t-butyl group.

206. The compound of claim 196, wherein R is a benzyl group.

207. The compound of claim 178, wherein said compound is formulated to provide controlled *in vivo* absorption of the compound over a discrete period of time.

208. A compound having the formula:



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wherein R_1 and R_2 are, independently, selected from H, COO-isopropyl, and COO-cyclopentyl, provided that at least one of R_1 and R_2 is not H.

209. The compound of claim 208, wherein one of R_1 and R_2 is H.